

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 562

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the Lao-American Three Headed Elephant Heritage and Freedom Flag in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the Laos Three Headed Elephant Heritage and Freedom Flag represented the Kingdom of Laos from 1952 to 1975, which was an ally of the United States during the Vietnam War. In 1975, the communists took over Laos and thousands of Laotians sought political asylum in the United States making Tennessee their home; and

WHEREAS, the Lao-American community have made invaluable contributions to the State of Tennessee by affirming their commitment to civic participation and public service, such as serving in the Tennessee National Guard, local law enforcement, and the U.S. Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Lao Three Headed Elephant Heritage and Freedom Flag represents the cornerstone of the Laos-USA alliance during the Vietnam War, representing the enduring struggle towards freedom and democracy for all its people and is a symbol of resistance against the totalitarian rule and human rights violations of the current Lao communist government; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Lao-Americans embrace the Lao Three Headed Elephant Heritage and Freedom Flag as the true symbol of their ancestral homeland; and

WHEREAS, Lao-Americans are an inherently peaceful and freedom-loving people who one day hope to bring the dream of a free Laos to fruition; and

WHEREAS, the Lao-American community of Tennessee is hereby officially authorized to fly the Lao Three Headed Elephant Heritage and Freedom Flag freely in the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate and recognize the significance of the Lao-American Three Headed Elephant Heritage and Freedom Flag, and the struggle for human rights and democracy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.